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Technology Center 2100

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 36 as shown below. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely configuring storage space, the system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices, the plurality of storage devices having storage space comprising free storage space and allocated storage space, wherein the allocated storage space has a size and is to be ~~substantially permanently~~ allocated to a user for storing data from the user, the user to be located at a site remote from the plurality of storage devices; and

a controller to be provided in communication with the plurality of storage devices and the remote user for automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space in response to a <u>manually initiated</u> request by the remote user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the controller comprises a computer program.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the controller comprises a processor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the computer program is to be provided on a server located at a site remote from the user, and wherein the plurality of storage devices are located at the server site.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a storage device manager to be provided in communication with the remote user and the plurality of storage

devices, wherein the storage device manager presents a plurality of virtual storage volumes to the remote user for use in storage and retrieval of the user data, and the plurality of virtual storage volumes are mapped to the allocated storage space of the plurality of storage devices.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of storage devices are part of a storage network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of storage devices comprises a plurality of disk storage devices.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is further for automatically transferring a portion of the allocated storage space to the free storage space in response to a request by the remote user to decrease the size of the allocated storage space.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely configuring storage space, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of storage devices, the plurality of storage devices having storage space comprising free storage space and allocated storage space, wherein the allocated storage space has a size and is to be allocated ~~substantially permanently~~ to a user for storing data from the user, the user to be located at a site remote from the plurality of storage devices; and

~~providing a controller to be provided in communication with the plurality of storage devices and the remote user for~~ automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space in response to a <u>manually initiated</u> request by the remote user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the controller comprises a computer program.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the controller comprises a processor.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the computer program is to be provided on a server located at a site remote from the user, and wherein the plurality of storage devices are located at the server site.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising providing a storage device manager to be provided in communication with the remote user and the plurality of storage devices, wherein the storage device manager presents a plurality of virtual storage volumes to the remote user for use in storage and retrieval of the user data, and the plurality of virtual storage volumes are mapped to the allocated storage space of the plurality of storage devices.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of storage devices are part of a storage network.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of storage devices comprises a plurality of disk storage devices.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the controller is further for automatically transferring a portion of the allocated storage space to the free storage space in response to a request by the remote user to decrease the size of the allocated storage space.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely configuring storage space in a system having a plurality of storage devices, the plurality of storage devices having storage space comprising free storage space and allocated storage space, wherein the allocated storage space has a size and is to be allocated to a user ~~substantially permanently~~ for storing data from the user, the user to be located at a site remote from the plurality of storage devices, the method comprising:

providing a controller to be provided in communication with the plurality of storage devices and the remote user for automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space in response to a <u>manually initiated</u> request by the remote user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the controller comprises a computer program.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the controller comprises a processor.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the computer program is to be provided on a server located at a site remote from the user, and wherein the plurality of storage devices are located at the server site.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a storage device manager to be provided in communication with the remote user and the plurality of storage devices, wherein the storage device manager presents a plurality of virtual storage

volumes to the remote user for use in storage and retrieval of the user data, and the plurality of virtual storage volumes are mapped to the allocated storage space of the plurality of storage devices.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of storage devices are part of a storage network.

28. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of storage devices comprises a plurality of disk storage devices.

29. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the controller is further for automatically transferring a portion of the allocated storage space to the free storage space in response to a request by the remote user to decrease the size of the allocated storage space.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the request by the remote user is to the controller.

31. (Currently Amended) In a storage system having a plurality of storage devices, the plurality of storage devices having storage space comprising free storage space and allocated storage space, the allocated storage space having a size and being allocated to a remote user ~~substantially permanently~~ for storing data from the user, a method for configuring storage space, comprising:

automatically receiving a <u>manually initiated</u> request from the user to increase the size of the allocated storage space; and

automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space in response to the request by the user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the storage system also includes a controller for use in automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the controller is also for use in receiving the request by the user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the storage system also includes a storage device manager in communication with the user and the plurality of storage devices, wherein the storage device manager presents a plurality of virtual storage volumes to the user for use in storage and retrieval of the user data, and the plurality of virtual storage volumes are mapped to the allocated storage space of the plurality of storage devices.

35. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the plurality of storage devices are part of a storage network.

36. (Currently Amended) In a storage system having a plurality of storage devices, the plurality of storage devices having storage space comprising free storage space and allocated storage space, the allocated storage space having a size and being ~~substantially permanently~~ allocated to a remote user for storing data from the user, a method for configuring storage space, comprising:

automatically receiving a <u>manually initiated</u> request from the user to decrease the size of the allocated storage space; and

automatically transferring a portion of the allocated storage space to the free storage space in response to the request by the user to decrease the size of the allocated storage space.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the storage system also includes a controller for use in automatically transferring a portion of the free storage space to the allocated storage space.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein the controller is also for use in receiving the request by the user to increase the size of the allocated storage space.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the storage system also includes a storage device manager in communication with the user and the plurality of storage devices, wherein the storage device manager presents a plurality of virtual storage volumes to the user for use in storage and retrieval of the user data, and the plurality of virtual storage volumes are mapped to the allocated storage space of the plurality of storage devices.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the plurality of storage devices are part of a storage network.